





to perform whatever duties the public service has required of them at all hours of the day or night. It is true, as you say gentlemen, I began my Civil-Service career in the colony under somewhat difficult circumstances. I had a very small staff until 1866, when, with additional responsibilities thrown on the Department, an increased and more efficient staff followed; and it gives me much pleasure to find that during all these years we have worked so well together that there have been but few changes. I take this opportunity of thanking the officers and employees of the Department of every degree for the valuable services they have so cheerfully rendered to the public through me. The efficiency of a public department depends on the zeal and mutual goodwill of its members, and, to insure success, the principal and his assistants must work on the same lines, without friction, and have respect for and confidence in each other. It is very satisfactory to me to know that I leave the conduct of the Department in such able hands as Captain Runnells, and I feel sure you will give him that support and zealous assistance which has never failed me. Gentlemen, I shall always take a lively interest in your welfare, and although the remainder of my days will be spent far from here, my thoughts must constantly revert to this beautiful island, which has been my home for over thirty years, and on the many friends I leave behind me. In your desire that I may hold you in remembrance, you most kindly ask my acceptance of this handsome piece of plate. I need hardly tell you that it did not require anything so substantial and valuable to keep you in my memory. I accept the gift with the greatest pleasure, and I shall take care that it be handed down as a family heirloom. It will not only serve to remind me of the office and of the worthy workers in it, but my children, most of whom were born here, will share my pleasure in possessing it, and it will help to remind them and their successors, as is evidenced here to-day, that an honest and faithful endeavour to discharge the duties confided to them is sure to meet its reward in the esteem and respect of those with whom their lot may be cast. Gentlemen, in wishing you good bye, I again thank you for your faithful services and good kindly feeling, and I wish you and your families prosperity and good health.

Three, hearty cheers were then given for Captain Thomson, and the proceedings ended.

#### ANOTHER FIRE IN HONGKONG.

At about eight o'clock last night the fire bell gave out its customary notes that the Brigades were wanted in the western district, where the shop of a rice-miller, No. 21 Centre Street, was found to be in a big blaze on the arrival there of the first engine. In the course of a very few minutes after the alarm, so dry was all the wood-work of the building, the floors were burnt through and the roof came down, which latter circumstance seemed to have the immediate tendency of communicating the flames to the two other houses on either side. The Government Brigades were directed to Superintendent V. Oudhouse and Deputy Superintendent, who, with the Volunteers under Mr. L. Mallory, quickly got their engines into play, and poured a copious supply of water through all available doors and windows into the burning houses. Notwithstanding these efforts, however, No. 21 very soon became a hopeless wreck of falling floors and burning mat-bags, which latter are said to be amongst the most difficult burning material which the Brigades have to cope with. By 8.30, after the roof and upper floors of No. 21 had fallen to the ground in a single moment, the fire was told on the blowing mats with greater effect and the flames were quickly quenched in that house, although there was plenty of life and vigour in the other two burning houses up to 9.30 late as 9.30, at which time Mr. Wodehouse directed one of the firemen to mount a ladder and throw a jet of water through a window on the first floor, where there was a considerable volume of flame, which on being put out, may be said to have ended the night's business. Owing to the fire being in that part of Centre Street near the water-front, there was but little difficulty in getting at it, but as usual the fragile character of the buildings prevented any possibility of salvation after the fire had got under full way. We understand that the premises were insured in German offices.

#### THE WRECK OF THE "SWATOW."

It neither accords with our desire nor with our policy to take notice of anonymous correspondence which choose to send letters to outside newspapers on matters affecting the ordinary daily journals which appear in the columns of this journal. That we publish on any particular incident or event is written to the benefit of the public, and we are quite aware that in following this independent and impartial policy in the expression of our opinions on public matters it is quite impossible to avoid "treading upon the corns" of certain individuals whose personal interests may be affected, or who are so wrapped up in the mists of their own self-conceit as to imagine that "all the knowledge in the world rests within their own thick heads." Such being the case, we rather reluctantly occupy our valuable time in taking notice of a letter from a correspondent in Shanghai calling himself "Jean du Goudron," who takes upon himself to send an amusingly ungrammatical, badly constructed, illogical, and grossly untrue letter to the *Shanghai Mercury*, dealing with some observations we thought fit to make regarding the loss of the steamer *Swatow* in the Thrice Chimney Bluff Passage, on the night of the 22nd of February last. The burden of this person's "hopeful and prosaic" is that a nautical writer in the *Hongkong Telegraph* has been censuring the Captain of the *Swatow* for being the cause of, and somewhat dangerous passage last night, that the master of the steamer, was justified in taking his vessel through the passage; and that Mr. "Jean du Goudron" "desires the writer of that article in the *Hongkong Telegraph* to prove by statistics that more lives have been lost by taking the inner passage than by taking the outer one." This polite critic then ventures to "dare-say" that the eminent nautical capacity (sic) on the *Hongkong Telegraph* does know next to nothing about "the inner passage," which is exactly the sort of argument that might be looked for from such a source. Well, if the game were worth the candle we imagine there would be very little difficulty in proving by statistics that the disaster to steam vessels, and the lives and the merchandise which have been lost on the coast of China between Hongkong and Shanghai, have occurred in a great measure in what is known as the regular "coasters," rather than in the deep water ships, and that such losses have been the direct consequence of the system of navigating "in a straight line," that is to say, of their method of looking for short cuts and for smooth water. If the sapient correspondent of our *Shanghai* contemporary is able to refute this statement, then we are forced, to the conclusion that the masters and officers of the coasting fleet are men of inferior professional abilities to those who navigate the large mail and other ocean going steamers, which so seldom experience the casualties which have for years been so common; that such masters and officers are inferior navigators; although they have passed exactly the same strict qualifying examination as their "deep water" counterparts, which, of course,

would be an absurd and untenable proposition. Dozens of vessels have been lost "coasting" during the past dozen years, whilst "underlying at sea, or otherwise coming to grief outside, has been almost unknown in seaway craft.

However, our main reason for noticing this mouldy navigator's precious epistle is because he accuses us of censuring Captain Warren of the *Swatow* for choosing to take the passage in question, and as it is quite contrary to fact, and quite foreign to our policy or our inclination to "jump on the back" of any one, we think it as well to give him a few brief extracts from what we actually did say in the article which has aroused the indignation of an individual whose action would apparently suggest that he had an "axe to grind." Here is the worst of our censure:—"Man is a sympathetic animal at all times, and particularly in his civilized condition. He does not, when his fellow creatures fall lame or blind or suffer reverses of fortune, seek to exterminate them from the face of existence as do the brute animals of the earth and sea, and for this very reason the master of the wrecked steamer will have a place in the sympathies of those who, etc., etc." To a certain extent, although the master was, by his own confession, guilty of a considerable measure of carelessness, and although the disastrous wreck was due directly to his own lax method of navigation—if there was any method whatever in it—he was forced into conditions of great peril by circumstances over which he had little if any control. He was the unfortunate follower of a hazardous custom, the non-observance of which would probably have cost him his position. We know the best men are liable to accidents, that errors of judgment in the clearest heads are not uncommon, and that the ablest and shrewdest navigators have frequently, in the most imminent danger, been caught "off guard"—at the very instant when the enemy is at the door. For this reason, the crew will always be some excuse for those seamen who lose their ships in the navigation of narrow and dangerous passages, and particularly when we believe that the compasses by which such hazardous evolutions are performed are frequently more faulty than the human agents who have to depend so much and so often on their guidance. If the *Swatow* had taken the outside passage up the coast; if she had steered for a safe and easily calculated distance of four miles from the Star Rock and from the Lamock Light respectively, she would have lost about four miles of distance between Swatow and Amoy, representing half an hour's time, and which might fairly be called nothing when put into the balance against the safety of the ship, her cargo, and her crew."

This is about all the censure which "a nautical man on board of the *Hongkong Telegraph*" has piled on the head of another nautical man who was held directly responsible for the loss of thirty odd human lives by the experienced members of a Naval Court, and which a third nautical man, for obscure but still suspicious reasons, told his own, took upon himself to civil in hideous jargon that too strongly suggests that illiterate class of so-called navigators to whose overweening conceit and professional ignorance so many disastrous shipwrecks have been mainly due. The next time Mr. "Jean du Goudron" is seized with an itch to shine in the public press he would do well to obtain the assistance of some small school-boy to put a finishing touch to his grammatical outrages on Lindley Murray, and the advice of an experienced sailor to prevent him from so plainly writing himself down an illogical, clumsy, and ignorant pretender.

#### TIENTSIN.

February 25, 1888.  
The ice on the Peiho is still firm, sound, and thick. The thickness at Taku a few nights since was eleven inches, but it has been reduced to nine to-day.  
Our winter promise to be late, as the temperature remains low, and the ice is scarcely thinning. The river level this year has been higher than usual, so we may hope the scour of the strong current has deepened the river bed and also the bar at the sea entrance.

It is probable the Yellow River disaster will prevent rice transport to any considerable extent at least until the Grand Canal. Some day not one junk will be able to come in which can the sea-going fleet will have to carry a larger quantity than usual.

The labourers of this place have had unusually abundant employment during the past winter, as much of the vacant ground in the settlement has been raised by dry mud brought from the river banks. This mud is not salt, but alluvial deposit, and possesses great fertility, as is seen in our little park.

A new industry has been in operation during some months past, and successfully, making bricks of red colour, good quality, and uniform size. The first were made by Laitun, but Mr. Chambers, C.E., has built a small works and firing kiln, from which he will supply the needs of the new Custom-house. The bricks made by Mr. Chambers are very tough, and as far as endurance of crushing strains go, not inferior to home-made bricks.

Doubts are expressed to the effect that the great breach in the Huang-ho southern bank cannot be repaired by the time the spring floods come. It is indeed a cap, as the saying is, that the work is almost formidable. The resources of the country around are not equal to furnish the stone, bricks, timber, fascines, piles, etc., required. The work, too, will soon have to be carried on under dangerous conditions, as the snow waters come down very suddenly, and though not so furious as the autumnal torrents, are yet sure to be especially alarming in the circumstances existing.

A noticeable fact in the place is that the consumption of wheat flour is increasing so much that the small mill, owned and worked by Chinese, is busy night and day. For a long time the Chinese used but little flour here except for their bread so-called, but now, owing to the good qualities discovered in it, and the ease with which it is cooked in many forms, flour is used in all households except the poorest. The quality is fairly good. The colour is darker than the Californian product, but flour is sweet. It does not seem likely that imported flour can compete in price with the native article made from the home-grown spring wheat.

The heightened prices of copper, zinc, and lead, will complicate the cash coinage question, and may lead to some measures of uniform coinage. Cash is very scarce, though why it should be so is not very clear, as during the last two years very large quantities of new coins have been put into circulation all over the Empire. As the Chinese are a practical people we do not think that any resistance would be made to a decimal coinage in copper and silver of suitable denominations. Probably halfpennies will be required, some quarter cent pieces also, in copper, but in Japan a country in many ways not dissimilar, half cent pieces are found to be sufficiently small for the public use.

Although no chemical tests have been yet made, signs are given that the soil of Tientsin and the country around is very rich in aluminium, which is now becoming a most useful, and indeed necessary metal for alloying purposes. Iron and steel, when alloyed with aluminium, double their tensile strength, and for some purposes proportionately better than

before. If steam pressures are increased, as is probable, it will be necessary to have boiler plates, cylinder, cranks, and shafts alloyed with aluminium, as then, without increase of weight, and in many cases with diminution of weight, pressures of 500 lbs. to the square inch, and piston speeds of 2,000 feet per minute will be easily endured without risk.—*Chinese Times*.

#### REMINISCENCES OF THE NEW KAISER.

Dr. Abel, writing from Berlin to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, gives some interesting reminiscences of the New Emperor of Germany, which are well worth reproduction.

Years ago, says the worthy Doctor, I happened to be swimming in the river near Cologne, when a youthful giant, leaping into the water from the scaffolding of the Military Bath, came down upon us with a terrific splash, greatly disturbing the equanimity of old Father Rhine. The noisy arrival was the heir to the Prussian and German thrones, a passionate, sportsmanlike in the quiet as an frozen water. Stretching himself full length, and striking out with extraordinary vigor, he made the several circuits of the extensive basin, and presently began to dive in the most accomplished and effectual style. A bevy of small boys, who had been jumping into the water after him, intent upon sharing the honors of the bath with the illustrious visitor, next attracted his attention. Seated upon a floating log, he would skip along the greenish waves, surrounded by the delighted youngsters and perpetrating all manner of tricks upon them, like Neptune playing with Tritons; or changing the game, he would place the boys upon the log and drag them and push them about amid the exultant shouts of the crowd. "When he felt that the boys had tired of his antics, he would suddenly attack by an audacious dash, and while yet in the prime of youth, was threatened with a probable and premature death. But it took no personal acquaintance with the Prince to comprehend his apparent fate. It was a sad day when the news of his illness first spread through Germany. A man of uncommon worth, destined to fill a leading position at a time ripe with foreign and domestic difficulties, his character had long been regarded as offering a substantial guarantee for a noble and dignified conduct of public affairs. Ripe, temperate and generous, his death, it was pretty generally concluded, would be one of the greatest disasters that could befall the nation just now.

The Prince, not having lately taken a very active part in the management of public affairs, his character and personality have been brought before the nation more prominently by his illness than would have been the case had he continued in his ordinary good health. He is remembered, as the Crown Prince, the other day pertinently put it in a letter to a friend, as a man instinct with pure and disinterested purposes, wishing to use prerogative for the benefit of others, not himself. He is remembered as a judicious statesman, a moderate liberal and a steady advocate of peace. A civilian rather than a soldier, a philanthropist as well as a potentate, he is recognized once more to blend the splendor of hereditary power with the loftier dignity derived from his excellent use. If he survives to enjoy sovereign opportunities, the accident which made him ill, by causing the nation to recollect his sterling qualities, will have proved a propitious and highly ministering introduction to his reign.

The Prince made his political debut in 1862, at the time of what has been euphemistically called the constitutional controversy. His royal father, the King of Prussia, being intent upon increasing his army, the King of Germany, owing to his conservative reputation, failed to give his Parliament that he had a definite national object in view. The lower house, in consequence, resisted the measure, when the King, supported by the upper house, contending that the budget had to be enacted by the Crown, if no arrangement could be arrived at between Crown and House, carried the reform single-handed. Opposition to these proceedings was at first pretty general, and indeed, died out only after the King, in successive campaigns against Austria and Prussia, had demonstrated the ultimate object of his military policies to the satisfaction of the people. While the struggle was at its hottest the Crown Prince, in a respectful letter to his father, begged to point out the obscure and imperfect provision made in the charter for the contingency of absolute disagreement between Crown and lower house. The frankness of this declaration at a time of extraordinary excitement gained immense popularity for the Prince, which was not diminished when the King, adopting a similar view, after the Austrian war, asked for some of indemnity at the hands of his loyal Commons. A general reconciliation ensued. The King, too, and equitable as he has ever shown himself, fully admitted that Parliament had not been entirely wrong. Parliament, on the other hand, by granting indemnity conceded that the King could not have let them into the secret of his plans unless he wished to defeat himself by premature disclosures; while the Crown Prince, standing between the two, had the glory of having held a mean and conciliatory course from the outset. His Imperial Highness has ever since been regarded as a courageous and liberal politician, wisely disposed to do justice to constitutional requirements, without pandering to eventual extravagances of the times.

Leading a retired and studious life during the continuance of peace, after the manner of most Prussian Crown Princes, his Imperial Highness took a leading part in the Austrian and French campaigns. Much lauded for valor, strategy and humanity on both occasions, he showed the unassuming modesty of his character in the parting orders issued to the armies under his command. On each occasion he attributed the chief merit of the victories accomplished to his chief of staff, the famous General Von Blumenthal. "If," he said in one of these memorable proclamations, "I have succeeded in acquiring myself of the task imposed upon me in this serious war, I am mainly indebted for my achievements to the advice of the experienced generals whom his Majesty has been pleased to attach to me for the purposes of the campaign." Coming from the heir of one of the most potent thrones in the world, words such as these, showing the ingenious manner in which the action of a proud and rising dynasty, were not likely to be lost upon an appreciative people.

From convictions, habits and the associations of a most happy marriage the Prince has always been a friend of Anglo-Saxon humanity. His speech at the opening of the second London Exhibition found ready echo on both sides of the channel. In thanking you for the reception given me," the Prince said in reply to an address presented by the members of the

Royal Academy, "I hope that it will prove another tie between Prussia and the great and virtuous country to which I owe my wife. The sympathies I have always entertained for the Anglo-Saxon race will, I am sure, be deepened throughout Germany in proportion to our better acquaintance with each other." In politics as well as in private life the Prince has always acted up to these words. The steady advocate in the council of good relations with England and America, he has been happy to receive many a distinguished visitor from both countries in his house, and in conversation with them has frequently dwelt upon the moral and political good sure to arise from increased contact between the various branches of the Teutonic family. "I shall never forget," he observed one day to Lord Houghton, with that facility of expression peculiar to him, "that my wife was English before she became German and that the English were German before they emigrated to Britain."

The Prince, who is as witty as he is affable and good-natured, is famous for numberless smart sayings in official and private intercourse. A few of the numerous *jeux d'esprit* attributed to him will show the bent of his sprightly and high-principled mind. When Prince William, his eldest son, was sent to school at Cassel, the head master of the gymnasium inquired whether the future heir to the German crown was to be addressed "Royal Highness" by the teachers. "Good Heavens, no," exclaimed the judicious father, "do not burden him with such a heavy title at his age. He will be oppressed by the weight of it early enough in life, I can tell you." And so Prince William was "you'd" (to imitate a German phrase), like the other young men, and had his full share of the school's labors and discipline, as well as of the rough and ready training which is the lot of newcomers to the elder boys. What knowledge of life German princes are able to acquire by this "only in rank, as a matter of course stands them in good stead in later years. Some time anterior to this instructive little incident Prince Henry—the small boy; at present an intelligent captain in the imperial navy—objected to his ordinary ablutions in the morning: Finding him refractory beyond her powers of persuasion, the Crown Princess reported the young offender to his father, who took his measures without saying much about it. On the following day as the boy came home from his drive he complained he did not find the sentinel at the door had not paid him the usual courtesy of presenting arms. "Of course not," was the reply, "Prussian sentinels do not notice an unwashed boy." Never again did crestfallen Henry refuse to be led up to the wash-basin.

Some time before his untoward illness the Prince was hunting in a sequestered part of the country, when the plough-boys flocking to the rendezvous, boisterously saluted the first carriage of the imperial train, where the Prince was seated. On the return journey the Prince, wishing to escape the ovations of the assembled multitude, begged one of his attendants to drive first, but the crowd would not be disappointed, and the first carriage was cheered nevertheless. "You seem to be very much liked here," said the Prince afterward, good humoredly, to his waiting attendant, his senior by twenty-five years. "How ever that may be, there are certainly few like him in his own rank."

#### A REMARKABLE CASE.

Under the above heading the *Danvers Reporter* of July 6th, 1887, publishes the following in its editorial columns—

Our readers may recall the circumstance of a young clerk, named Arthur Richold, falling insensible on the Whetley Lane in this town some time ago, and being picked up, as he continued perfectly helpless, and taken in a cab by two gentlemen to the office of F. W. Fisher, Esq., the solicitor who employed him. On restoring him to consciousness it was ascertained that he was afflicted with what seemed to be an incurable disease. When he was able to speak he said he had been to his dinner and was on his way back to his work, when suddenly his head was in a whirl and he fell in the street like a man who is knocked down. On coming to his senses in the solicitor's office he thought what this might mean, and feared he was going to have a fit of illness, which we all know is a very dreadful thing for a poor man with a family to care for. With this in mind he at once sought the best medical advice, telling the doctors how he had been attacked. They questioned him, and found that his present malady was exhaustion of the nervous system resulting from general debility, indigestion, and dyspepsia of a chronic nature. This in turn had been caused by confinement to his desk and grief at the loss of dear friends by death. The coming on of this strange disease, as described by Mr. Richold, must be of interest both to sick and well. He had noticed for several years previously, in fact, that his eyes and face began to have a yellow look; there was a sickly and unpleasant tinge on the gums and teeth in the morning; the tongue coated; and the bowels were so bound and constipated that it induced that most painful and troublesome ailment—the piles. He says there was some pain in the sides and back and a sense of fullness on the right side, as though the liver were enlarging, which proved to be a terrible fact. The secretions from the kidneys would be scanty and high-colored, with a kind of gritty or sandy deposit after standing.

These things had troubled Mr. Richold a long time, and after his fit in the street he clearly perceived that the fit of giddiness was nothing more than a sign of a sign of a sign of advance of the complaint, which he had in indigestion and dyspepsia. His story of how he went from one physician to another in search of a cure that his wife and little ones might not come to want is very pathetic and touching. Finally he became too ill to keep his situation and had to give it up. This was a sad calamity. He was appalled to think how he should be able to live. But God raised up friends who helped to keep the wolf from the door. He then went to the seaside at Walton-on-the-Naze, but neither the change, nor the physicians who treated him there did any good. All being without avail he visited London, with a sort of vague hope that some advantage might happen to him in the metropolis. This was in October, 1885.

How wonderful, indeed, are the ways of Providence; which dashes down our highest hopes and then helps us when we least expect it. While in London he stated his condition to a friend, who strongly advised him to try a medicine which he called *Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup*, saying it was genuine and honest, and often cured when everything else had failed. He bought a bottle of a chemist in Piccadilly, and began using it according to the directions. He did this without fail or hope, and the public may, therefore, judge of his surprise and pleasure when after taking a few doses he felt great relief. He could eat better; his food distressed him less; the symptoms which had haunted him since the fit of giddiness were gradually disappearing, and his strength increased. Before this time his knees would knock together whenever he tried to walk. So encouraged was he now that he kept on using *Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup* until it ended in completely curing him.

In speaking of his wonderful recovery Mr. Richold said it made him think of poor Robinson Crusoe, and his deliverance from captivity on his island in the sea; and added, "But, for

Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup the grass would now be growing over my grave."

Our readers can rest assured of the strict truth of all the statements in this most remarkable case, as Mr. Richold (now residing at Swiss Cottage, Walton-on-the-Naze) belongs to one of the oldest and most respected families in the beautiful village of Long Melford, Suffolk, and his personal character is attested by so high an authority as the Rev. C. J. Martyn, rector of that parish, besides other excellent names. We have deemed the case of such importance to the public as to justify us in giving this short account of it in our columns.—[Advt.]

#### Today's Advertisements.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

#### NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

CONTRIBUTING SHAREHOLDERS are requested to send in a Statement of Business Contributed during the Half-Year ended 31st instant, on which date the Accounts will be closed.

By Order of the Board of Directors, D. GILLIES, Secretary.

Hongkong, 15th March, 1888.

#### NOTICE.

I HAVE this day established myself as a SHARE AND GENERAL BROKER.

OFFICE, NO. 11, HOLLYWOOD ROAD. J. SAMUEL.

#### PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, on SATURDAY, the 17th day of March, 1888, at NOON, at his Sale Rooms, Queen's Road, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED, BAGS OF CHINESE AND SAIGON RICE more or less damaged by Water and Steam at the Fire of the 28th January, 1888, now stored in the Wing-yum-yung Shop, No. 95, Bonham Street.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash on delivery in Bank Notes. All Lots with all faults and errors of description at Purchasers' risk on the fall of the Hammer.

J. M. ARMSTRONG, Auctioneer. Hongkong, 15th March, 1888.

#### PUBLIC AUCTION.

OF ENGLISH, AMERICAN AND HONGKONG-MADE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PIANO, ORGAN, &c.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from H. SMITH, Esq., to Sell by Public Auction, on THURSDAY, the 22nd March, 1888, at 2 P.M., at the Undersigned's Sale Rooms, Duddell Street, THE WHOLE OF HIS ELEGANT AND SUBSTANTIAL FURNITURE, comprising—

GARNET-REP-COVERED-DRAWING ROOM SUITE, English-made MAHOGANY CENTRE TABLE, SIDE & CARD TABLES, PICTURES, ENGLISH CARPETS, RUGS, &c. American-made BLACK and GOLD CHEFFONNIE PLATE GLASS BACK COTTAGE PIANO by APOLLO & Co., nearly new.

SPLendid PALOUR ORGAN by HAMILIN & MASON, with extra stops.

TEAK & EBONY SIDED BARD, DINING-ROOM SUITE, DINNER and DESSERT SERVICE, CUTLERY, GLASS & PLATED WARE, FENDERS and IRONS.

IRON BEDSTEADS, LADY'S DOUBLE WINGED WARDROBES, MARBLE TOP WASHING STAND, LADY'S DOUBLE WINGED DRESSING-TABLE, BEDROOM SUITE, CHANDLIER'S LAMPS, &c.

PALOUR and COOKING STOVES, &c. Catalogues will be issued prior to Sale and above will be on view on WEDNESDAY next.

TERMS OF SALE.—As Customary. G. R. LAMMERT, Auctioneer. Hongkong, 15th March, 1888.

#### Masonic.

PERSEVERANCE LODGE OF HONGKONG, No. 1165.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, TO-MORROW, the 16th instant, at 8.30 for 9 P.M. precisely. Hongkong, 15th March, 1888.

#### ZETLAND LODGE.

No. 525.

A N EMERGENCY MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on MONDAY NEXT, the 19th instant, at 8.30 for 9 P.M. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited. Hongkong, 15th March, 1888.

#### NOW READY.

PRICE FIFTY CENTS. THE LAW OF STORM in the EASTERN SEAS, by W. DOBERCK, GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER.

MAY BE PROCURED AT Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited, Hongkong, Lane, Crawford & Co., F. Falcoffer & Co., C. J. Gaupp & Co., F. Blackhead & Co., Heurnann, Herbst & Co., More & Seimund, MacEwen, Frickel & Co., Mr. W. Brewer.

The "Hongkong Telegraph" Office, Messrs. Quinch & Co., Swatow, Messrs. Hodge & Co., Foochow, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited, Shanghai, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited, Yokohama. Hongkong, 10th September, 1886.

#### Amusements.

THEATRE ROYAL, CITY HALL, HONGKONG.

Lessee and Manager, ALLAN HAMILTON.

SATURDAY NEXT, the 17th March, 1888.

FIRST APPEARANCE IN HONGKONG of HAMILTON'S Musical, Bouquet and Comedy Company, including the favorite Australian Comedienne, MISS MAGGIE FORD, who have just terminated an uninterrupted Tour of Thirteen Months in the Australian Colonies.

The curtain will rise at 9 O'CLOCK precisely on the charming comedieta, "RUTH'S ROMANCE."

To be followed by a GRAND MISCELLANEOUS ENTERTAINMENT. (For full particulars see to-morrow's paper).

Concluding with the comic drama in one act, "NAN, THE GOOD FOR NOTHING," in which Miss MAGGIE FORD will appear as NAN, a character she has sustained upwards of one thousand times.

Doors open each evening at 8.30.

The Band of the 58th Regiment under the leadership of Mr. J. MORAN, will occupy the orchestra every evening, by the kind permission of Colonel ANDERSON and the Officers of the Regiment.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:— Dress Circle and Stalls .....\$2.00 Back Seats..... 1.00 Military and Sailors in uniform, half price to back seats only.

Reserved seats can be booked at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED, where a plan of the Theatre may be seen. Hongkong, 15th March, 1888.

#### Consignees.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY. NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo per Steamship "CITY OF NEW YORK." The above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for Countersignature and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense. C. D. HARMAN, Agent. Hongkong, 14th March, 1888.

#### Notices of Firms.

#### NOTICE.

M. R. M. GROTE has this day been admitted a PARTNER in our Firm. CHATER & VERNON. Hongkong, 1st January, 1888.

#### NOTICE.

MR. MAHOMEDBOHY KHETSEY being about to proceed to Bombay, MR. VERSEYBOHY VULLY Assumes CHARGE of my Business from this date and will SIGN the Firm in Hongkong and China. THARIA TOPAN. Hongkong, 12th March, 1888.

#### Insurance.

NOTICE. THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED. CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS, &c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies. WOO LIN YUEN, Secretary.

#### HEAD OFFICE.

No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, Hongkong, 1st February, 1888.

#### GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED). CAPITAL TAELS 600,000. EQUAL TO.....\$333,333-33. RESERVE FUND.....\$240,000.00.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS. LO YUEN MOON, Esq., LO TSO SHUN, Esq., MANAGER.—HO AMEI.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world. HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST, Hongkong, 17th December, 1885.

#### To be Let.

TO BE LET. TWO BIG ROOMS with Several Small ones upon Ground Floor of No. 15, Praya Central, Suitable for OFFICES or GODOWNS. Apply to LAI HING & Co., No. 15, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, 5th March, 1888.

TO BE LET. Unfurnished with Tennis Court. NO. 5, Richmond Terrace, a FOUR ROOMED HOUSE, with Three Bath Rooms. NO. 6, Richmond Terrace, a SIX ROOMED HOUSE, with Three Bath Rooms. A New Story has just been added to the Servants' quarters of both houses. Apply to JOHN WILLMOTT, Hongkong Dispensary, Hongkong, 27th January, 1888.

TO LET. ROOMS in "COLLIER CHAMBERS" GODOWN in ICE HOUSE LANE, lately occupied by Messrs. DUFFYFIELD & SWIRE, from the 1st May. Apply to DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co., Hongkong, 3rd February, 1888.





## NOW READY.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST, A DIRECTORY AND WORK OF REFERENCE ON ALL IMPORTANT LOCAL SUBJECTS FOR CHINA, JAPAN, THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, NORTH BORNEO, THE PHILIPPINES, AND COREA, FOR THE YEAR 1888.

PRICE THREE DOLLARS.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY has again been enlarged and is THE CHEAPEST, MOST COMPLETE, AND ONLY RELIABLE WORK OF THE KIND PUBLISHED IN THE FAR EAST.

THE above named work, published at the Office of "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH," contains a Directory for the Ports in the large portion of Asia comprised between Penang, in the Straits Settlements, and the Northern Chinese Ports, including Vladivostok, Formosa, the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, Coochin-China, the Philippine Islands, Corea, British North Borneo, the British Colony of Hongkong, and the Portuguese Colony of Macao. It also contains the Principal Treaties between European countries and the United States and the countries East of the Straits, including the New Treaties between FRANCE and CHINA, CHINA and GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE and ANNAM, RUSSIA and CHINA, BRAZIL and CHINA, and the KOREAN TREATY, together with conditions of Trade, and the Port, Customs, Consular, and Harbour Regulations for the Ports of China and Japan; also descriptions of the various Ports, with the latest Trade Statistics taken from the Reports of the Imperial Maritime Customs and other reliable sources.

The various Governments and Municipal Corporations, and all Public Bodies and Companies, Bankers, Merchants, Consuls, Professional and other Residents, have supplied the necessary matter, upon forms specially sent for that purpose so as to ensure accuracy. The Naval and Military portions have been taken from the latest published official lists and revised at Headquarters; in fact, no pains have been spared to make "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" a handy and perfectly reliable book of reference for all classes.

In addition to the information enumerated above "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" for 1888 contains a carefully revised

## INDEX TO THE ORDINANCES OF HONGKONG.

A SPECIAL LIST OF FOREIGNERS employed in Steamers making short voyages from Hongkong;

THE PRIVATE RESIDENCES of the Principal Government Officials, the Leading Merchants, the Foreign Consuls, Professional Men, Justices of the Peace, &c.

A LADIES DIRECTORY FOR HONGKONG AND

A Mass of interesting information on various subjects, culled from the most trustworthy sources.

THE WINNERS OF ALL IMPORTANT RACES at HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, FOCHOW, and AMOY, with times, and other interesting particulars, carefully compiled from the most reliable sources, make "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" a *valde necesse* for all classes of sportsmen.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" for 1888 is Printed on a superior quality of Paper, and is the best printed and most handsomely bound volume published East of the Suez Canal.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" is in order that it may circulate extensively outside this Colony, is published at a POPULAR PRICE, and can be ordered at this Office, or through any of our Agents at the various Ports, for

THREE DOLLARS.

There is not space in the compass of an Ordinary Advertisement to detail all the information introduced into the work, but it may be fairly asserted that no such Directory has ever been published, either in Hongkong or any other part of the East, at such a low price.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" offers Special Advantages as an Advertising Medium. It has an extensive circulation in all Ports between Singapore and Newchwang, in the Australian Colonies, the United States, and the United Kingdom, and the scale of charges has been fixed at an exceptionally low rate. Terms can be learned on application.

Suggestions for the improvement of this work are respectfully solicited.

Orders for COPIES, and for ADVERTISEMENTS may be sent to the Agents at the various Ports, or to the Office of

"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" FREDERICK HILL, HONGKONG. Hongkong, 16th January, 1888.

## Intimations.

## NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LTD.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR ANNUAL SUPPLY

of

LAWN GRASS SEED

and

SWEET CORN,

for immediate sowing.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1888.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1888.

For some time past the Fever Commission has disappeared from the public gaze; its inquisitorial functions having been discharged with praiseworthy completeness, and the medical gentlemen forming the Board having received emphatic assurances from a number of more or less interested witnesses regarding matters of common knowledge, with which they were thoroughly acquainted before, we are left to assume that the serious array of professional talent are now deeply engaged in concocting some sort of a report to justify the *raison d'être* of their special appointment as a Government Commission, and the protracted inquiry which has been held at the public expense. The wisdom of Solomon having, unfortunately, not fallen to our lot, we need hardly feel very deeply humiliated in frankly confessing that we never quite understood for what specific purpose this Fever Commission was organised by the Government; we could not imagine what results were expected to accrue from a medical inquiry into the details of sanitary science, and after a careful perusal of all that took place at the meetings held, we are forced to the conclusion that the learned doctors are just as wise—and not one whit wiser—with regard to the origin of the fever epidemic in the western districts of the city as they were three months ago. When the Report and recommendations of the Commission have been made public, which no doubt will shortly be the case, there may be a necessity for again dealing thoroughly with the disgraceful state of the sanitary arrangements of this colony, and exposing the official trickery and neglect which, since Governor HENNESSY left Hongkong, have had full swing in tending to transform what was formerly a healthy settlement into a notorious hot-bed of pestilence. But until this Report has been made public it will be just as well to let matters rest.

In glancing through the examination of witnesses by the Fever Commission, we were very much impressed—not favorably—with the evidence given by a gentleman who has recently arrived from England to assume the duties of Sanitary Inspector. It would perhaps be more accurate to say that our unfavorable impressions were formed rather from the manner in which this officer's evidence was given than from the evidence itself. He strongly suggested the idea that he was merely repeating a carefully learnt lesson, for some purpose which we need not at present too closely inquire into. And his evidence further suggested, for reasons which will be obvious to anyone who has closely followed the proceedings of the Commission, that the time has arrived when the Sanitary Department and the Sanitary Board should be entirely relieved of that objectionable incubus, the Hon. the Surveyor General. There can be no freedom of action, and consequently nothing in the shape of material reform in our sanitary irregularities, until the domination of Mr. PRICE has entirely ceased. It is a scandal to the Government that the official who is actually responsible for the drainage and other sanitary conditions of the city, should at the same time sit in judgment on his own efficiency as Surveyor General—in the position of Chairman of the Sanitary Board, and further, should exercise supervision over the Sanitary Inspector, whose special business actually is to see that the Survey Department attends properly to the drains and other sanitary arrangements. The first recommendation of the Fever Commission ought to be that the Surveyor General be summarily relegated to the duties of his own department, and if the medical gentlemen succeed in effecting this most desirable change, their labours will not have been entirely in vain.

## TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)

## THE RUSSIAN PRESS ON THE SITUATION.

LONDON, March 13th. The Russian Press fears that political difficulties will arise in consequence of the death of the late Emperor of Germany.

## GERMANY.

The Emperor Frederick has been proclaimed, and it is stated that he has not suffered in travelling.

His Majesty has announced that the future policy of the Government will be guided on the same lines as those followed by the late Emperor William.

The funeral of the late Emperor of Germany has been postponed until Friday next.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Chinese corvette *Kwang-ka*, Capt. Ching, arrived this morning from Swatow.

The Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Co. courteously informs us that the steamship *Vinella*, with the next English mail, left Singapore for this port to-day at 8 a.m.

The total amount of import and export dues collected by the Manilla Board of Harbour Works since September 1886, when the Board was created, up to the 29th ulto. reached the sum of \$1,497,759.94.

The *Chinese Times* learns that an epidemic of typhus has overtaken the Inland Missionaries at Ta-yuen in Shansi, eight of them, including the doctor, having been seized with the fever. Assistance has been sent from Tientsin.

SENHOR DA COSTA, Governor of Macao, having concluded his mission to the Court of Siam, Dr. Gomes da Silva, Secretary, and Ensign Chaby, aide-de-camp to the Minister, have been relieved of their diplomatic duties. The former officer has proceeded to Timor to inspect the public works of that colony, and the latter has returned to Macao.

The Manila Government has entrusted to the sub-director of the local Observatory the charge of studying the causes of the numerous storms which prevail along the coast of the Archipelago as well as inland, with a view to drawing a meteorological chart of the islands and of establishing their magnetic positions. The *Diario*, in commenting on this, is hopeful that important results will accrue to science and navigation from the labours of the newly appointed Commissioner.

MR. A. S. HOOPER, valuer under the Rating Ordinances, this morning charged Cheung San with sending in false statements regarding the rent of a tenement at 106 Bonham Strand, and furnishing such false reports knowingly and unlawfully. The rent of the house in question was \$670, and the defendant had returned on a printed form the false sum of \$482—his name being signed to the document. The accused on admitting his offence was ordered by Mr. Wise to "scratch his name out" by planting down \$100.

We were glad to observe on calling in at Messrs. Kelly & Walsh's this forenoon that the performance announced for Saturday night at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, by Mr. Hamilton's Comedy Company, has every appearance of attracting a large audience. A considerable number of reserved seats have already been booked, so that intending patrons will be wise to lose no time in securing good positions. A full programme of the entertainment will appear in our to-morrow's issue, and we are glad to be able to announce that the management have succeeded in obtaining the valuable co-operation of the Band of the Northamptonshire Regiment, whose services, under Mr. Moran's leadership, have been kindly granted by Lieut. Colonel Anderson and the Officers of the Regiment.

The Hangchow correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date the 9th inst.—February 26th, the 15th of the first moon, was a great holiday in Hangchow. There was a procession that day such as takes place but once in sixty years. It was got up by the seventy odd yamens in the city, and started from or near the Fu-tai's office; but the paraphernalia paraded was not extraordinary—there was a dragon with the usual accompaniments carried through the streets. However, as the day was fine, the number of spectators was very large; and all seemed to think the affair a great one. The procession was called *tsu wai*, referring to the north star probably. We had quite a March wind here on the night of the 3rd inst. It was accompanied by thunder and rain; but so far as I have heard it was not as destructive as the snow that came over a month ago. The snow broke down the roofs of many houses, amongst them a building on the premises of the Roman Catholics, where one man was killed and several persons injured. The goodly *China Mail*, which, the other day with characteristic uncynicism deprecated criticism of a public concert held at the City Hall because said concert was given for a charitable purpose, publishes in its last night's issue a quarter of a column of ungrammatical scribble (supposed to be criticism) referring to the semi-private organ recital given at St. John's Cathedral Tuesday night. The inconsistency of the *Evening Bane* would be amusing were it not contemptible; the criticisms (?) of the rag would be laughable if they were not grossly ignorant and offensively impudent. Here is one example of the evening paper's critical style:—"The last chorus 'Behold the Lamb of God' although it ought to be sung very slowly was very much dragged, and a little hitch or two showed that the choir did not take so heartily to this as the more lively strain." They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." The genius who wrote this stuff, and there is only one brainless noodle in the colony who could have written such trash, has missed his opportunity. He ought to have joined the angels, or the missus, long ago.

ACCORDING to latest news from Peking the Seventh Prince is now quite convalescent and able to attend to his official business. He still suffers, however, from swelling in the hands and fingers.

H.M.S. *Andalous*, flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon, accompanied by the *Alacrity*, *Constance*, *Heroine*, and *Mutine*, left Singapore on the forenoon of the 5th inst. for Hongkong, via Sarawak, Labuan, Sandakan, and Manila.

A CIRCULAR has been issued to the effect that the second ordinary meeting of shareholders of the Masonic Club will be held at the Club House on Thursday afternoon, the 29th instant, at 5 o'clock, to receive the report of Directors, together with the Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1887. The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 15th to the 29th instant, both days inclusive.

Two newly built cruisers for the Spanish navy, the *Lala de Cuba* and *Lala de Leon*, are now receiving their armament at the arsenal of Ferrol. The dimensions of both ships are 59 metres length over all, 9 beam and 5 depth of hold, with an average draught of 3.50 and a displacement of 1,046 tons. They are to have each six guns of 12 centimetres bore, Hontoria system, 4 quick-firing guns and 3 torpedo ejectors, two forward and one aft. The hulls are of steel, divided into several water-tight compartments, and provided with a powerful ram. Both vessels have an electric apparatus of 20,000 candle power. The propellers are of bronze, and the highest speed to be attained will be 15 knots an hour, 14 knots being the ordinary speed with both screws working, and 9 with only one revolving. When these vessels are completed, the construction of two large cruisers, each possessing a displacement of 7,000 tons, will be proceeded with.

A LONDON telegram in the *Straits Times*, dated March 3rd, states that in the House of Commons, Sir Charles Russell moved for an inquiry regarding the rights of the Executive to interfere with public meetings. Mr. Bradlaugh moved as an amendment that the conduct of the Metropolitan police should form the subject of an inquiry. Both proposals were rejected after a brief discussion. Lord Salisbury's hybrid Government, aided by a phalanx of so-called Liberal Unionists who are nothing but time-servers of the most despicable type, would appear to be doing its utmost to drive the British people to rebellion and revolution. And that this will be the upshot of the Star Chamber and brutally coercive policy of his lordship and sanguinary Halfour, if persevered in for much longer, can scarcely be doubted. It is a great marvel that the Irish leaders have not already resented the tyranny of the Government by declaring their own independence and calling an outraged nation to arms to defend their rights and liberties. That they have ample justification for so doing is undoubted, and that they would receive the moral, if not the active support of the masses of England and Scotland is equally certain. The cowardly brutality of Lord Salisbury and his unscrupulous minions not only fully justify conspiracy and treason in Ireland, but have laid the foundations of revolution in London.

THE recent action taken by the Macao Government against that august institution which is said to be the palladium of the Holy City's freedom, namely the Senate of Macao, evidently shows what degree of respectability the *Real Senado* possesses or is considered to possess by the powers that be in the Portuguese colony. We have had occasion to point out that many leading features in the 'gem of the orient earth' are mere shams; such, for instance as the system of financial administration, the colony's assumed political importance in the Far East, its reputed but non-existent trade, its starvation army and navy, the dominance of its priestly influence, the utter inadequacy of its educational resources, and its shabby-genteel population, all of which are wonderful specimens of colonial farce which is probably not to be seen in any other part of the world. The *Real Senado*, or Municipality of the Holy City, seems to abridge and concentrate in itself all the garish follies for which the colony stands conspicuous. It is a *millum in garbo* of the mass of ignorance, ineptitude and duplicity which is spread over all the inhabitants of a decrepit and decaying city. This may be said to be a very sweeping assertion; but nevertheless it is a truth which cannot be controverted. A glance at the details of the recent *embroglio* between the Government and the Senate will sufficiently convince any one that the latter is anything but a dignified corporation, or worthy the high-sounding title it so proudly assumes. The Governor of Macao had thought fit to bestow praises on some individuals who pass for professors in the *terra cœcorum*, and at this the Senate took umbrage, and actually passed a vote of censure on the head of the Executive. The Governor resented this unwelcome interference with his right to express his opinions, and ordered the Registrar-General to convey the censure to the Senate in a solemn conclave, his grave displeasure at their foolish proceedings. The Registrar-General, who is a Government official, threw up the sponge and resigned his position rather than take upon himself to censure the Senate. Another Registrar was forthwith appointed, but the Senate declined to take the least notice of his official imprimatur, and further, positively refused to cancel the minutes of the session at which the supreme authority of the colony had been asserted. The Acting Governor then subsided into a state of masterly inactivity and allowed the Senate to have its own way, probably because he could not help himself. A dissolution of this league of the *patres conscripti* was threatened, but so far has not been carried out, the general belief being that all the independent patriots who constitute the loyal institution have by common accord assumed high and mighty airs, displaying their own self-importance, arrogance, and defiance of the Government, over a principle which to sensible people would simply appear ridiculous. The *Real Senado* object to the professors of the Central School being praised by the Governor, regarding that not very important function as one of their own special prerogatives. Was ever a more childish plea advanced as a justification for the offensive conduct of a public body of men who claim to possess sound judgment and common-sense? It is a mere affair of fighting straws, which both the Government and the Senate should have ignored as unworthy of a single moment's serious discussion.

CHIEF P. & O. Company's extra steamship, *Alacrity*, left Bombay for this port on the 13th inst.

ANOTHER five dollars for Alfred's money box. For not exhibiting the customary mast-head light on his junk last night, whilst at anchor in the harbour, an unfortunate boatman was this morning ordered by a stern and unforgiving magistrate to fork out the sum aforesaid.

It is rumoured that a subscription list is being manipulated by the 'one reader' to provide the Editor of the *China Mail* with a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. We trust this movement will meet with hearty support, as our contemporary's wholesale slaughter of the English language has become a painful grievance.

A CRICKET match between the Hongkong Club and the officers of the 58th Regiment will be commenced at 2 p.m. to-morrow, the 16th inst., and continued on Saturday at 11 a.m. Players are requested to be punctual. There will be fifteen on the ground on Saturday. The following will represent the Club:—T. S. Smith (captain), C. S. Hall, E. J. Coxon, Major Johnstone, R. E. J. C. Johnson, Major Miles, R. A. E. W. Maitland, A. de C. Scanlon, M.S., Captain Stanley, O. S. D., and two others.

A BOATMAN, a piratical looking Chinese, was held up before Mr. Wise yesterday, charged by a Punjaube guardian of the peace with carrying arms without a license, and being unable to furnish reasonable excuse for being in the possession of such a deadly weapon as a six-chambered revolver. The culprit admitted having the weapon, and was accordingly fined two dollars, with the alternative of seven days tranquility at the expense of the tax-payers. Heanted up the necessary shakels and departed, after blessing the Punjaube in choicest Cantonese.

A LARGE and influentially attended meeting was held in the Hongkong Hotel this afternoon to make arrangements for a mob of Subscription Griffins for the Hongkong Jockey Club Race Meeting of 1888. Major Tripp, Clerk of the Course, occupied the chair, and after considerable discussion, Mr. Fraser-Smith proposed and Mr. Belling seconded that Mr. H. Symons, of the Shan, hai Horse Bazaar, be again entrusted with the commission of supplying the griffins on the same terms as last year, but with the distinct understanding that the griffins selected must be *bona fide* untried griffins, and not cast-offs from racing stables. On being put to the vote this was carried unanimously, and the Chairman was instructed to communicate with Mr. Symons by wire without delay. Major Tripp called for subscribers to the Griffin list, and two dozen subscriptions were at once filled. A rule was unanimously adopted that no subscriber be allowed to take more than two subscriptions. After some further conversation on racing matters the meeting dispersed.

## SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before Acting Chief Justice Russell and a Special Jury.)

U-TZ-WAN, v. GARRELLS AND ANOTHER, \$50,000.

On the hearing of this case being resumed this morning, Mr. U-tz-Wan, the plaintiff, was examined by Mr. O'Malley, when witness identified one of the books which he had handed over on the night of the fire, and a paper marked 2A. The book was one of the Man-Yuen-Tong books. The statement of the goods at the commencement of the year included all the goods in the Man-Yuen-Tong. The paper is a short list of the goods. There were goods to the value of Taels 11,937.00 at the Kut-yung-tz about the close of the Chinese year. The sum of Taels 14,000 includes the machinery used in the manufacture of ginseng. On the day after the fire witness had an interview with Messrs. Pustan's compadore; it was not true that he had said then that the quantity of tea in his store was so trifling that it was not worth the trouble of packing. On the 2nd March he received a letter from the management of tea. It was sent from Soy-how district whence it was brought here by the steamer *Alutina*. Witness got a letter in connection with that consignment. On arrival, he took delivery of the tea.

His lordship—This tea does not appear in the claim. Moreover, it is said to have arrived on the 22nd March, and the fire occurred on the 24th. How is it that the claimant did not mention this tea as lost or destroyed by the fire?

Mr. O'Malley—Witness's books were all destroyed by the fire, and he could not lay a special claim on the article consumed.

His lordship—The question is whether he had the tea in his shop or not at the time of the fire.

Witness continuing, stated that he got fifty packages of tea from Soy-how, partly in boxes and partly in bales, each package weighing about 70 catties; the total weight was 35 piculs. This tea was in his shop at the time of the fire. By his lordship—The paper produced was a private memorandum of his own of the goods at the Man-Yuen-Tong. His tea books were on the first floor. There were 2000 boxes of tea there. The tea 18,000 odd comprised the goods of the Man-Yuen-Tong, not the tea; this was on the Kut-yung-tz account. The Pang-yut-tz was registered, not the Kut-yung-tz. Witness left Hongkong in 1887 and returned on the 27th February of the same year. Left again on the 1st March, and hurried back on the 13th. Long-Akok had stated at the Police Court that he was here on the 13th, but witness did not remember having seen him. He subsequently called at witness's shop and asked for some work, but as he had brought criminals and rogues from Chinese territory for sale here, witness did not like to give him employment. Long-Akok's statement in this court last year that witness had employed him to set fire to the premises, that he had taken him upstairs, given him 82 to buy kerosene with, and asked him to help to set fire to the premises—is false. His further statement that witness on the 24th March had given him a box of matches and asked him to pour the kerosene over some papers and set them on fire, is also false. The fire took place between 8 and 9 p.m. on the 24th. Witness went upstairs on that afternoon after his dinner, and worked at his counter from that time till the fire occurred. There were present at the counter his son, A-yi and Ho-yau. Ho-yau died in the *Wah-yung* disaster at sea. Witness would swear that he had been upstairs an hour or an hour and a half before the fire took place. His cook lit the lamp. The kerosene in stock for the purpose of light-

ing the rooms was kept downstairs, next to the kitchen. The tea was on the first and second floors. The kerosene accounts corresponding to the stock (book produced) Long-Akok accompanied by another person called on witness a few days after the fire, and spoke to him. His companion was Lo-in-ping, a boarding-house-keeper. The two called at about 10 p.m. and Long-Akok said some one knew all about the fire. A clerk of Messrs. Wotton and Deacon's also called and engaged in conversation; Long-Akok said that several people wanted to get money from the bank located at the Man-Yuen-Tong. Witness was on the second floor, and was told that Long-Akok had been instructed to say that witness had set fire to the shop, that his box had been opened and inspected, and that if he gave \$1000 he would have his box returned to him. Witness did not reply to that. On the next day they called again on a similar errand, when witness told his *shiki* to say that he had gone to Canton. He did not give them in charge because he did not understand them; he was ill, and thought that the box with the clothing had been destroyed by the fire.

One of the jurors wished to know what amount of debts was owing to the shop in February.

Witness said that all the debts owing to the shop was owing to himself, he acted as agent for all his business effected at the shop for the collection of all accounts, and received a 2 per cent. commission from the Man-yuen-tong firm.

By his lordship—Long-wang-tong was another witness's uncle, and traded at Vladivostok. The nine books taken out of the shop on the night of the fire were only the Man-yuen-tong's accounts. Goods of the Kut-hung-tz were also entered in the Man-yuen-tong's books.

Hon-lai-chun said, in answer to Mr. Robinson, that he was an assistant compadore at Messrs. Holliday, Wise & Co's. He was the charterer of the steamer *Alutina*. The documents produced were the shipping bills of the steamer. The last witness brought them to the office to get delivery of the goods; this was on or about the 2nd of March. The chop on the bills was that of the Man-yuen-tong shop. The *Alutina* left on the next day, say the 24th.

So-chin-shau, examined by Mr. O'Malley, said that he was a partner in the Kut-hung-tz. U-tz-Wan, Ung-han-pho, witness, and his uncle Wong-lung-tong, were partners in the concern. They dealt in ginseng, which was procured in Vladivostok. Witness's share was \$5000; the whole capital was \$20,000. The concern was started in 1886. After the capital was paid in, witness went with his uncle to Vladivostok and made arrangements for the purchase of ginseng. He came back after a time, and the ginseng in the book produced related to purchases of ginseng in Vladivostok. Witness brought the ginseng to Hongkong and handed it over to the Man-Yuen-tong. Some of it was taken to Canton. The total value of the ginseng imported was 2,000 odd taels.

Cross-examined by Mr. Ackroyd—Witness came back via Nagasaki. Had to remain there for a month, owing to illness. His uncle came back with him. They left Vladivostok in October 1886, arrived in Nagasaki after eight days' passage, and after about a month's delay came to Hongkong. He did not know whether the ginseng was imported before leaving Vladivostok. He saw the books of the Man-Yuen-Tong, but did not take special notice of the ginseng therein deposited. The goods were not to be mixed with those of the Man-Yuen-Tong; they were considered as property of the owner of the Man-Yuen-Tong the moment they were stored there, as witness could have got their value from U-tz-Wan at any time he liked. He was not sure who had paid the freight of the article, as, although a partner, he seldom looked at the books.

At this stage the further hearing of the case was adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.

## FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE HARBOUR MASTER.

The employees of the Harbour Department met this morning to present a farewell address and a piece of silver plate to Captain H. G. Thomsett, R.N., who is retiring from the position of Harbour Master of the Colony, which he has occupied for the past 27 years.

There were present, in company with Captain Thomsett, his own family and all the officials of the department. Mr. F. Machado, chief clerk, addressing Capt. Thomsett said—Sir, as the oldest member of the Harbour office staff, I have been deputed by my colleagues to present to you a farewell address upon your departure. I accept this duty with much pleasure, and will with your permission read the address—

To the Honourable Henry George Thomsett, R.N., M.L.C., Harbour Master of the Colony of Hongkong.

Sir—We, the undersigned officers and employees in the Harbour Department of the Colony of Hongkong, learning that you are about to retire from the office of head of that department, venture to offer you a few lines of appreciation of your services, and to express our sincere regret that you should be leaving us. It has been our happy fate in life to have served for nearly the Queen in both the Militant and Civil Services. In such a career you have been able to give your country the best of your services, and to leave behind you a reputation which will live as long as the name of the Harbour Department of Hongkong. You have been a most efficient and capable officer, and we are sure that your departure will be a great loss to the department. We are sure that you will continue to be a most efficient and capable officer, and we are sure that your departure will be a great loss to the department.

Upon your retirement from the field of labour to which you have devoted so many of your precious years you will carry with you the gratitude of every man interested in the welfare and development of this colony, and the lasting regard and most cordial wishes of all who have had the privilege of serving you. We are sure that you will continue to be a most efficient and capable officer, and we are sure that your departure will be a great loss to the department.

We subscribe ourselves,

Gratefully and most Obediently your Servants.

(Here follow the signatures of the European and Chinese employees of the Harbour Department.)

Mr. Machado continuing, said—The address, Sir, which I have just read, faithfully expresses our sentiments regarding yourself. You have always dealt fairly and kindly by us, and it is therefore impossible, since working side by side for so many years, that we can view your retirement from this active life without regret. As a souvenir of the people of our Department I have been requested to beg your acceptance of this centre piece, and in offering you so humble a tribute of our esteem, we play our part in the regard the spirit in which it is offered than its intrinsic merit. In the name of my colleagues, and on my own behalf, I wish you and your family *bon voyage*, and trust there may be many happy years in store for you in your native land.

Captain Thomsett, in reply said—Gentlemen—You will readily understand that with the pleasure of being here to-day to receive the very kind but, I fear, too flattering address, which has been read to me by my old friend Mr. Machado, there must be attached to it a great deal of pain and regret in parting with officers from whom I have always received much good feeling, valuable assistance, and readiness



